Mainstreaming Disability Data: The Washington Group on Disability Statistics

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The Washington Group (WG)

- June 2001: UN International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability
- WG established as a City Group under the aegis of the UN Statistical Commission to:
  - address the need for population based measures of disability
  - foster international cooperation in the area of health and disability statistics
  - produce internationally tested measures to monitor status of persons with disability
  - incorporate disability into national statistical systems
The WG is Country driven

- Countries have ownership
  - Representatives include the national statistical offices of 133 countries and territories, 7 international organizations, 6 organizations that represent persons with disabilities
- The Secretariat for the WG is located at NCHS
- A Steering Committee oversees the WG work plan
- Workgroups carries out the work plan with input from all members
- Emphasis on evidence and transparency – extensive testing of data collection tools in multiple countries
WG: Workgroups

- Workgroup on the Analysis of the Extended Set on Functioning
- Workgroup on Child Functioning
- Workgroup on Environmental Factors and Participation
- Workgroup on Mental Health
- Workgroup on Disability Module for Labor Force Surveys
Summary of annual meetings


2. Canada 1/2003
4. Thailand 9/2004
5. Brazil 9/2005
8. Philippines 10/2008
10. Luxembourg 11/2010
12. Thailand 10/2012
15. Denmark 10/2015

05/12/2016
## Workshops and Expert Consultations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>06/2005</td>
<td>Mumbai, India*</td>
<td>09/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td>12/2006</td>
<td>Belmopan, Belize*</td>
<td>01/2013</td>
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<td>Amman, Jordan</td>
<td>05/2013</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarajevo, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</td>
<td>02/2008</td>
<td>Podgorica, Montenegro*</td>
<td>07/2013</td>
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<td>Apia, Samoa*</td>
<td>06/2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
<td>04/2008</td>
<td>Hammamet, Tunisia*</td>
<td>02/2015</td>
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<td>Ohrid, Macedonia</td>
<td>11/2008</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland*</td>
<td>07/2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
<td>08/2009</td>
<td>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</td>
<td>05/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscat, Oman</td>
<td>10/’10 &amp; 04/’13</td>
<td>NY, New York*</td>
<td>06/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damascus, Syria</td>
<td>12/2010</td>
<td>Nadi, Fiji</td>
<td>07/2016</td>
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<td>Sharjah, UAE</td>
<td>05/2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogotá, Colombia</td>
<td>07/’12 &amp; 08/’13</td>
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</table>

*in collaboration with UNICEF

05/12/2016
Collaborations

The WG has a long history of collaboration with other international organizations:

- UN Statistics Division
- UN Secretariat for the CRPD
- UNICEF
- UN ESCAP
- World Bank
- ILO
- World Health Organization

as well as many National Statistical Offices and both Non-Governmental and Disabled Person’s Organizations
WG Data Collection Tools: Short Set

Question set that focus on measuring difficulty functioning in universal, basic activities:

• Short set on functioning adopted in 2006
  • Domains of functioning:
    Seeing, Hearing, Mobility, Cognition, Self-care, Communication
  • Response categories:
    No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all
Focus on Equalization of Opportunities

- Seeks to identify all those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.
- Disability used as a dissagregation variable.
Testing of the WG SS

• Cognitive testing of the short set questions was carried out in 2006 in fifteen countries:
  Argentina, Brazil, Congo, Egypt, Gambia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Paraguay,
  Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam

• This was followed by field testing in five countries:
  Argentina, Brazil, Gambia, Paraguay, Vietnam
Monitoring the UN CRPD and SDGs through data disaggregation

WG question sets are developed
• to collect internationally comparable data based on the ICF model

The question sets produce data
• That fulfill the monitoring requirements established by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals.
Disaggregation requirements

• Need a straightforward and simple way to identify persons with disabilities: the WG questions identify those at greater risk than the general population for limitations in participation.

• Need indicator/outcome data (education, employment, income, health care access) from data collections (census/surveys) that also include the above disability identifier.
WG Short Set

Because of a Health problem:

1) Do you have difficulty seeing even if wearing glasses?
2) Do you have difficulty hearing even if using a hearing aid?
3) Do you have difficulty walking or climbing stairs?
4) Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
5) Do you have difficulty with (self-care such as) washing all over or dressing?
6) Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating (for example understanding or being understood by others)?

Response categories:
No difficulty; Some difficulty; A lot of difficulty; Cannot do at all
What can the WG Short Set produce?

Domain specific outputs:

• different categorizations on each domain
• a summary score for each individual domain of functioning
• continuum of functioning on each of the 6 domains

Overall outputs:

• a set of disability scores (based on different cut-offs) suitable for disaggregation
• a recommended disability indicator for disaggregation and international comparisons
## Prevalence (weighted %) by domain and degree of difficulty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Domain</th>
<th>Some difficulty</th>
<th>A lot of difficulty</th>
<th>Unable To do it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Care</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NHIS 2013; n=16777; ages 18+
Defining a disability continuum and a disability dichotomy

WG questions fulfil two specific data needs:

- to describe disability data as a continuum of functioning based on graded responses to questions in the functional domains, and
- to define a cut-off (or a set of cut-offs) that can be agreed upon internationally in order to disaggregate outcome indicators (e.g. access to education, employment) by disability status

This allows for the calculation of prevalence rates and disaggregation.
Creating the WG disability dichotomy

For purposes of reporting and generating internationally comparable data, the WG has recommended the following cutoff be used to define the population of persons with disabilities:

- The sub-population identified as with disability includes those with at least one domain that is coded as a lot of difficulty or cannot do it at all.
## Disability prevalence USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person with disability has:</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>at least 1 Domain is ‘some difficulty’</td>
<td>7511</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at least 2 Domains are ‘some difficulty’</td>
<td>3672</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at least 1 Domain is ‘a lot of difficulty’</td>
<td>1872</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at least 1 Domain is ‘unable to do it’</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NHIS 2013; n=16777; ages 18+
## Disability by Employment status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WG Short Set</th>
<th>Overall prevalence</th>
<th>Without disability</th>
<th>With Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cut-off is a lot of difficulty or cannot do in at least 1 domain</strong></td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cut-off is some difficulty in at least 2 domains</strong></td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cut-off is some difficulty in at least 1 domain</strong></td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>62.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mainstreaming disability statistics

- WG questions can be added to any on-going data collections;
  - Can be used in any national or subnational survey (health, labor force, income & expenditure, DHS, MICS etc.)

- Once the WG questions become integrated into core statistical systems – disaggregating outcomes (education, employment etc.) by disability status becomes routine
The Washington Group Short Set...

- has been used in censuses or surveys in over 65 countries
- has been promoted by international aid programs, (DFID/UK and DFAT/Australia), as the means to collect disability data in all programs and projects,
- has been introduced as the means for collecting disability data by the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) and the UN Economic Commission for Europe for the 2020 round of censuses.
- And both the US AID and UNICEF have developed disability modules that will operationalize the WG SS for their Demographic and Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys respectively.
WG Data Collection Tools: Extended Set for Adults

- Extended set on functioning adopted 2010
  - expands on the Short Set adding information on upper body functioning, affect, pain and fatigue and adding more questions per domain;

- begins to explore the association between functioning and the environment: use of assistive devices/aids, and functioning with and without assistance
WG Data Collection Tools: Children

Question set that focus on special case of disability and functioning among children and youth:

• WG/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning:
  • includes questions for children 2-4 and 5-17 years

Question set that focus on the environment and participation:

• WG/UNICEF Module on Inclusive Education
  • begins to address the association between environmental barriers and participation
WG Data Collection Tools: Participation

Question sets that focus on the environment and participation:

• Disability module for inclusion on labor force surveys
  • currently under development in collaboration with ILO

• Module on environment & participation
  • under development
  • measuring the environment indirectly through participation in selected activities: family, social and civic domains
Volume on the history and accomplishments of the WG:

International Measurement of Disability: Purpose, Method and Application
The Work of the Washington Group

B. M. Altman (Editor)
Springer (Publisher)

Publication: June, 2016
The Road Ahead

Capacity building through 2018

• 5-7 regional workshops
• 6-8 implementation and other technical workshops

Development of guidance documents

• Implementation protocols for data collection
• Data analysis
• Dissemination of results
For more information about the WG visit our new website:
http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/

Questions:
WG_Secretariat@cdc.gov